

# RECOGNISING YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEADERSHIP

## A CASE STUDY

The Young Leaders' Scheme & Armadale Academy



### Background: Scouting & Curriculum for Excellence

Scouting is an educational movement and has been delivering aspects of Curriculum for Excellence through non-formal education for over one hundred years. The movement's long-standing aim to "promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities", fits incredibly well with the four capacities. Locally, there are endless examples of our young people developing confidence and taking on leadership with a sense of drive and enthusiasm – some might say, learning at its best! This crossover in a young person's learning, coupled with the recognition of everyone involved in planning, supporting, designing and delivering learning, including the voluntary sector, and their part in preparing young people with skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work, has created an opportunity for local voluntary organisations, such as the Scouts, to develop strong partnerships with local schools.

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Teaching staff at Armadale Academy were looking for an opportunity to formally recognise some of the learning their students were undertaking out with the traditional school day, including the great work young people were doing in Scouting. They recognised in particular the leadership skills that their students were developing through Scouting, Guiding, Youth Leadership in Sports courses and other young organisations, and saw an opportunity to offer the recently developed National Qualification in Leadership as an additional course for some of their senior students. In the first year fourteen students were involved, including a significant number of Explorer Scouts who undertook the practical aspects of the module through the Scout Association's Young Leaders' Scheme. The Leadership Award is at level 6 of the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF), which is the equivalent level of a 'Higher Grade' qualification. It is split into two modules:

- ~ Leadership: An Introduction
- ~ Leadership in Practice

### How it Worked

Fifth and sixth year students who were already developing leadership through their involvement in various youth organisations and groups were offered the opportunity to work towards the Leadership Award (NQ) in addition to their normal subject choices. The school then registered each pupil on the course through the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) in the normal manner.

The school chose to include one period of tuition a week dedicated to the Leadership Award modules, including it in the school timetable. This 'tutorial' was led by a teacher who happened to have experience of the Scout Association's Young Leader's Scheme, and focused predominately on the first of the two modules which make up the award – Leadership: An Introduction. The tutorial also gave an opportunity for the students to expand their knowledge, share their own experiences and seek advice when they required it.

The young people were responsible for undertaking the majority of the work towards the second module (Leadership in Practice) in their own time, out with the school day, through the youth group or organisation that they take a leadership role in. For the students working towards the qualification through Scouting the completion of the various Young Leader Training Modules along with evidence of carrying out the Young Leader Missions covered most of the required learning.

### Evidence & Qualifying for the Award

As the Academy acts as the awarding centre for the Leadership Award, it is the school that decides whether a pupil has shown enough evidence of learning to gain the qualification. The award is set-up in such a way as to allow flexibility in the style of evidence that a young person provides, ensuring that it is most appropriate to their learning style or needs. Some students chose to write written reports reflecting on their own leadership experience as well as keeping a brief diary of their leadership activities. However there is scope for students to create and present electronic presentations, record interviews, create blogs, keep a log book or provide evidence by other means that have been agreed with the school.

### The Benefits

The use of the NQ in Leadership has brought a number of benefits. These include:

- The young people involved have gained a formal qualification, recognising the work they have been doing in Scouting. This is an additional qualification that will strengthen their CVs and add value to applications to college, university or potential employers.
- The school has gained a greater insight into the learning (in this case leadership skills) of a number of their students from out with the formal school day. This has helped them develop their practice in relation to the Recognising Wider Achievement agenda.
- The students see their learning as a joined up process happening in a range of locations, not just school.

- The young people are aware of, and understand, the value of the skills that they are developing in Scouting as they prepare to move onto the next stage of their learning journey.
- The additional qualifications reflect positively on the schools statistics in relation to qualifications gained by students.

### Some Views from those involved

“The leadership qualification and the associated learning help build students’ confidence and clearly enhances learning and social skills, impacting positively upon classmates, the school environment and, of course, their own futures.

The ability for some of our students to use the Scout Young Leader programme to complete the Leadership in Practice unit provides them with an easy way to formalise the wide range of skills they are acquiring outside school into a nationally recognised qualification. It rewards them for what they do to help others and shows the value society places on the voluntary sector. “

***Andrew Sharkey**, Deputy Head Teacher, Armadale Academy*

“The course is really good, and the things I did at my Young Leader training or do helping the Cubs meant that I already had lots of leadership experience and could explain things to my friends in class. This helped make me more confident and the new stuff I’ve learnt at school is also making me a better Cub Leader!”

***Sam**, Young Leader & Explorer Scout*

“Leadership at school is fun. I get to learn things I can then try out at Beavers and I also get to show people what I am doing outside school and they are interested! Now one of the other pupils wants to come and help as well.”

***David**, Young Leader*

### The Next Steps

Due to the success of the course, Armadale Academy has decided to offer it to more students in the current academic year.

Work is being carried out to produce some support resources for Young Leaders to promote the NQ in Leadership and explain how their schools can get involved.

It is intended that an extended pilot involving Young Leaders from different Regions will be carried out in a range of secondary schools in the next academic year.